

Westwood Delegation to Tanzania

June 16-27, 2026

Purpose: To continue to strengthen the partnership between Westwood Lutheran Church and Arusha Road Lutheran Church (since 2003), as well as the other ministries we have developed relationships within Dodoma: the AIDS orphans (through the church and our food-packing), the Dodoma Christian Medical Center (hospital, dental clinic), and KNdege Elementary School.

We hosted ARC in the Spring of 2025, and it confirmed that this relationship is one we want to continue. As both congregations emphasize youth and ministry with young adults, we are especially excited to have an intentionally intergenerational delegation. This will be Westwood's 8th journey to ARC, and four groups from ARC have come here.

Our hope is to build relationships further and learn from ARC. We aim to expose more Westwood members to these ministries, paying special attention to the composition of our delegation to ensure a diverse representation of ministries and demographics. We also aim to be a witness to the progress in these partner ministries, and then to return home as ambassadors, sharing information and promoting this part of our outreach ministry.

Those who go on behalf of our congregation are expected to be involved in the Tanzania Ministry Team and/or other ways of promoting this relationship upon their return home. As we travel, you may be asked to represent a ministry of Westwood that you are already involved with. Upon our return, you'll be asked to be our "point person" for that area of partnership.

Dates: Tuesday, June 16, with an afternoon departure, returning home on Saturday, June 27, 2026 (mid-afternoon).

Cost: Flight = approximately \$2,350, MSP to Kilimanjaro and back. Vehicles (large Safari jeeps), drivers, food, lodging, tips = around \$1,350. Total around \$3,700 (yet to be confirmed, but this is close!).

Our group: We will limit the group to 10 people: 6 adults and 4 youth. We expect to have far more interested people than we can accommodate, and we apologize that, to keep the group a manageable size, we cannot accept everyone. We will ask people to fill out an interest form. We will ask leaders from the Tanzania team who have been there before to help us shape a group that will best represent Westwood and strengthen the partnership. Dannica will have special criteria to ensure that interested youth are mature enough and able to handle the rigors of such a venture.

Once invited, you will be required to commit by submitting a \$750 deposit. After that, the group will meet about 3-4 times for planning, learning Swahili :-), learning about the ministries there, and group-building.

Health: Traveling in Africa requires a few visits to the Travel Clinic for shots and medication. You will receive vaccines for hepatitis, rabies, typhoid, yellow fever, and you will need to be on malaria meds. Food and waterborne illnesses are most common. We have been very fortunate on the past trips with only some minor stomach issues. It is 18 hours of flying, driving in jeeps on dirt roads, and a very busy schedule in Dodoma. Medical care is accessible, but not always easily. Simply put, you must be in good health, recover from jet lag, be able to walk long distances without rest, withstand heat, stand for extended periods, squat, and take care of yourself in a variety of environments. Creature comforts are not the norm.

The Itinerary:

Departure: Tuesday, June 16 - late afternoon, layover in Paris, arrive Arusha late evening the next day (17th)

On the evening of the 17th, sleep at Ilboru Safari Lodge, approximately 6 hours from Dodoma. Drive to Dodoma on the 18th.

From June 18 to 23, we will be hosted by ARC, and activities will include visits to Arusha Road Church, the hospital/dental clinic, an elementary school, and, hopefully, a day trip to a Maasai village.

June 18, 19, and 20, we will sleep at the Cathedral Lodge in Dodoma. On June 21, 22, and 23, we will have homestays hosted by members of Arusha Road Church.

June 24, drive to Karatu Villa Lodge

June 25, safari in Ngorongoro Crater, drive to Arusha

June 26, Flight around 8 pm, layover in Amsterdam, arrive home the next day, Saturday, June 27.